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November 5, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia A. Harding".

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF SMALL WATER SYSTEMS**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its water quality monitoring of small water systems in Los Angeles County. Attached is the quarterly report covering the period April 1 through June 30, 2014. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

Our next quarterly report will be provided to the Board in January 2015. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

CAH:rl
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County

April 1 through June 30, 2014

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of Arsenic, Total Chromium, Hexavalent Chromium (chromium+6), and Lead as a follow-up study to an earlier study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DPH-DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DPH-DWP currently inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies, and to report monitoring results to the DPH-DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation of State law enforceable by the DPH-DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that either (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DPH-DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems, as well as the consideration of new water sources. Additionally, the DPH-DWP works with system operators in applying for financial assistance from the CDPH to address identified violations.

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period April 1 through June 30, 2014.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DPH-DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State law. The DPH-DWP issued Notices of Violation and Order to eight water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling during the reporting period.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in Violation of State Requirements to Perform Bacteriological Analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900552	ANGELES CREST CHRISTIAN CAMP	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900080	CAMP COULTER PINES (SOUTH ELK)	WRIGHTWOOD
1900612	COLBY RANCH-UNITED METHODIST CAMP	PALMDALE
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE PARK	AGUA DULCE
1900726	LA COUNTY PROBATION CAMP KARL HOLTON	SAN FERNANDO
1900864	NEWCOMB'S RANCH INN	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900244	PYRAMID LAKE RV RECREATION RANCH	GORMAN
1900057	ST ANDREWS ABBEY	VALYERMO

The DPH-DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

Information regarding lapses in bacteriological monitoring at the Gardens of Paradise Park water system was provided to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning for consideration as a breach of condition of the water system's operating permit.

B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DPH-DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the State's Bacteriological Standard. The DPH-DWP issued three Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances during the reporting period.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for Bacteriological Levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900061	AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	AGUA DULCE
1900942	ALPINE SPRINGS MOBILE HOME PARK	PALMDALE
1900576	USFS MONTE CRISTO CAMP	PALMDALE

All three water systems initially tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Follow-up analyses did not detect the presence of *E. coli*, and neither coliform bacteria nor *E. coli* have been detected in subsequent testing of these small water systems.

An Administrative Hearing was held on July 2, 2014, for the repeated presence of coliform bacteria in the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park water system.

C. Microbiological Treatment Requirement

Small water systems are designated as “Surface Water Systems” when they use water from streams, lakes, and open reservoirs. Similarly, small water systems are designated as “Groundwater Systems Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water” (GWUDI) when their wells are in close proximity to such features.

These small water systems are required to implement “multibarrier treatment,” an enhanced preventative measure against potential contamination. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at six small water systems that have previously been notified regarding their designation as Surface Water Systems or GWUDI Systems but have not completed full implementation of multibarrier treatment.

Table 3: Small Water Systems Designated as Surface Water and GWUDI That Have Not Met the Microbiological Treatment Requirements.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900904	ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP 11	ACTON
1900007	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP 14	SAUGUS
1900901	FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19	AZUSA
1900764	HENNINGER FLATS – LA COUNTY FIRE DEPT	ALTADENA
1900591	STURTEVANT CAMP, UNITED METHODIST	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900569	TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION- SAN GABRIEL	MONROVIA

The DPH-DWP is continuing to work with these water systems to develop and implement multibarrier treatment systems.

Trask Scout Reservation–San Gabriel (Water System 1900569) collects water from a stream as its only supply of potable water. Trask Scout Reservation has not met the required frequency for monitoring the water supply for *E. coli*, a potential pathogen also used as an indicator for other pathogens. The DPH-DWP has been working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the CDPH on issuing enforcement actions to bring Trask Scout Reservation into compliance with Federal and State regulations.

CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the State's Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the State Standard (10 parts per billion).

Table 4: Small Water Systems Under Increased Surveillance for Chronic Exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. Since the water treatment proposals require additional information, DPH-DWP has extended the review period until December 2014 and will continue to work with the church until final approval. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

Big Dalton Dam (Water System 1900228) has completed the water treatment evaluation and monitoring period which complies with the State Drinking Water Standards. Both the New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) and the Rancho Ybarra Christian Camp (Water System 1907031) facilities have installed approved water treatment systems but modification to the systems will require extending the DPH-DWP's review of the overall systems' efficacy for Arsenic reduction until December 2014.

Since the water treatment proposals and system efficacy require additional information, DPH-DWP has extended the review period until December 2014 and will continue to work with all three water systems until final approval. In the interim, DPH-DWP has directed these facilities to post Public Notices informing consumers of the elevated levels of Arsenic.

B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at two small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the State Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 5: Small Water Systems under Increased Surveillance for Chronic Exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. Since the water treatment proposals require additional information, DPH-DWP has extended the review period until December 2014 and will continue to work with the church until final approval. In the interim, DPH-DWP has directed the facility to post a Public Notice informing the members of the church about the elevated levels of Nitrate and an alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. Since the water treatment system did not pass the required monitoring period, the water company was required to complete modifications to the system and continue Nitrate sampling for additional six months until December 2014. The DPH-DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems. It is DPH-DWP's expectation that the water system will complete the evaluation period by December 2014.

SUMMARY

Eight small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. Three small water systems were cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at six small water systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at twelve small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the July through September 2014 quarter will be completed soon. The DPH-DWP will provide the report for that quarter in January 2015.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.